

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 429/94 (EUR 44/147/94, 6 December 1994) -
"Disappearance" / Fear for safety

TURKEY Bayram Bal, aged 35

Hamit Bal, aged 45, his uncle, both from Koruköy village

Amnesty International has just learned that Bayram Bal and Hamit Bal were found dead near Yandere village in the Nusaybin district of Mardin province on 20 December 1994. Reports indicate that the two Kurdish villagers had been tortured and then killed by gunshots to their heads.

They had been detained after a raid on their village on 2 November and were taken to Mardin for interrogation together with a third villager. This man was arrested and sent to prison by the Mardin Public Prosecutor's Office on 15 November while Bayram and Hamit Bal were released. However, according to a report in *Özgür Ülke* newspaper of 24 December, Bayram and Hamit Bal were taken away from the court house immediately after their release by unidentified men who carried a walkie-talkie and identified themselves as police officers to a relative who had followed them outside the building. One of them told the relative: "I am a police officer. Go back. You have no business with us." The two villagers were then taken away in a white Renault car.

During 1994, more than 400 people became the victims of political killings by unidentified assailants, mostly in the streets of cities in southeast Turkey.

On 14 December, the body of Kurdish lawyer Faik Candan was found some 15 kilometres from a military base south of Ankara with four bullet wounds to his head, neck and chest. He had "disappeared" in Ankara on 2 December (see EXTRA 75/94, EUR 44/151/94, 9 December 1994, and update 15 December, EUR 44/152/94). In most of these cases the perpetrators have not been identified and relatives believe that agents of the state are responsible for the killings. In February 1993, a cross-party parliamentary commission was established to investigate these "murders by unknown persons", but almost two years later, when the total death toll has risen to over 1,200, the commission has still not submitted a final report nor proposed any concrete measures to put a halt to the murders.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters

- expressing deep concern at the murder of the two Kurdish villagers Bayram Bal and Hamit Bal, whose bodies were found near Yandere village, Nusaybin district, on 20 December 1994, reportedly tortured and killed by bullets to their heads;
- asking what measures the authorities took in response to Amnesty International's appeals on this case in early December, when these men were still alive;
- urging that a commission of investigation be set up in accordance with the United Nations Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-Legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions, to investigate the torture and killing of Bayram and Hamit Bal from Koruköy, and that those responsible be brought to justice;
- asking to be informed of the results of the autopsy and of the investigation.

APPEALS TO:

1) President Süleyman Demirel
 Office of the President
 Cumhur Ba_kanl____
 06100 Ankara
Telegrams: President Demirel, Ankara, Turkey
Telex: 42303 kosk tr
Salutation: Your Excellency

2) Deputy Prime Minister
 Mr Murat Karayalç_n
 Ba_bakanl_k
 06573 Ankara, Turkey
Telegrams: Prime Minister, Ankara, Turkey
Telexes: 44061/44062/44063 bbmt tr; 42099 basb tr; 42875 bbk tr
Faxes: +90 312 417 04 76 DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
Salutation: Dear Deputy Prime Minister

3) State Minister with responsibility for Human Rights:
 Mr Azimet Köylüo_lu
 Office of the Prime Minister
 Ba_bakanl_k
 06573 Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 312 417 0476
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

President of the Parliamentary Human Rights Commission:
 Mr Sabri Yavuz
 nsan Haklar Ara_t_rma Komisyonu Ba_kan_
 TBMM
 Ankara, Turkey
Faxes: +90 312 420 5394

and to diplomatic representatives of Turkey accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 26 February 1995.